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1. Argyle lodging, Stirling, Scot.

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(Stimulus)
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THE STORY OF THE ARGYLE LODGING.



William Alexander, Earl of Stirling.

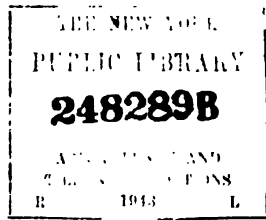
THE STORY OF THE
ARGYLE LODGING.

BY
JAMES RONALD.

STIRLING:
ENEAS MACKAY, MURRAY PLACE.
1906.

(7)

†



Printed at the
Stirling Observer Office.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, - - - - -	17
THE EARL OF ARGYLE'S LODGING, - - - - -	23
WILLIAM ALEXANDER, - - - - -	71
REQUIRING A RESIDENCE, - - - - -	74
DATE OF ERECTION, - - - - -	115
THE PROPERTY NOW CHANGES HANDS, - - - - -	139
WHAT BECAME OF THE SEAT OR LOFT, - - - - -	153
WHAT BECAME OF THE EARL OF STIRLING'S AISLE, - - - - -	160
THE MAKING OF THE CEMETERY, - - - - -	166
ARGYLE LODGING IN THE HANDS OF THE CROWN, - - - - -	173
APPENDIX, - - - - -	181

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
WILLIAM ALEXANDER, EARL OF STIRLING, - - -	<i>Frontispiece</i>
ARGYLE LODGING (COLOURED PLATE), - - -	14
ENTRANCE GATEWAY, FROM CASTLE WYND, - - -	20
INSIDE ELEVATION OF ENTRANCE GATEWAY, - - -	26
EAST ELEVATION (QUADRANGLE), - - -	32
ORNAMENTAL GABLE PORCH, - - -	38
ORNAMENT OVER WINDOW, - - -	42
ORNAMENTAL HEAD OF WINDOW, - - -	46
ORNAMENT OVER DOOR, EAST ELEVATION, - - -	50
ELEVATION TO THE EAST, - - -	60
NORTH ELEVATION (QUADRANGLE), - - -	64
SOUTH ELEVATION (QUADRANGLE), - - -	68
DOOR TO SOUTH-EAST TURRET, - - -	80
ANCIENT ARGYLE DOORWAY, - - -	86
COUNTRESS OF STIRLING'S INITIALS ON TOP OF WINDOW HEAD	
(NORTH SIDE OF QUADRANGLE), - - -	90

	PAGE
EARL OF STIRLING'S INITIALS ON WINDOW HEAD (NORTH SIDE OF QUADRANGLE), - - - - -	94
ARGYLE CREST OVER WINDOW, - - - - -	98
ARGYLE LODGING, 1674—GROUND FLOOR PLAN, - - -	104
Do. FIRST FLOOR PLAN, - - -	108
Do. SECOND FLOOR PLAN, - - -	112
ORIGINAL OAK STAIR LEADING TO FIRST FLOOR, - - -	120
HALL FIREPLACE, SHOWING CARVED MANTELPIECE, - -	126
ANTE HALL FIREPLACE, SHOWING CARVED MANTELPIECE, -	130
DRY CLOSET, - - - - -	136
ANCIENT KITCHEN, SHOWING FIREPLACE, - - - -	142
ANCIENT LARDEE, - - - - -	146
ANCIENT BUTLER'S SERVICE ROOM, - - - - -	150
PARISH CHURCH, 1803—PLAN OF SITTINGS, - - -	156
PARISH CHURCH, SHOWING EARL OF STIRLING'S AISLE OR BURYING PLACE, - - - - -	162
GATEWAY, ARGYLE LODGING, - - - - -	170
ARGYLE LODGING, 1830, - - - - -	178

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Argyle Lodging.

Introduction.

WHEN the Earl of Stirling died, he owned a residence in Stirling, afterwards called the Argyle Lodging, and a pre-Reformation chapel which he used as a burying-ground ; he also had a seat, or loft, in the Parish Church.

It is the business of the following pages to tell the story of how his residence became the Argyle Lodging, and give a complete record of all the changes in the proprietorship of the Earl's mansion, burying-ground, and the seat, or loft, down to the present day.

I am mainly indebted to the late Mr. T. L. Galbraith for permission to take extracts from papers in the Town Clerk's office, a number of years ago, when I was a member of the Town Council. I also got information from the Kirk Session Records

and the published records of the Town Council. I have to acknowledge the great kindness and courtesy of Dr. Beard in showing me through the Argyle Lodging, now a Military Hospital, and pointing out interesting portions of the building which he had observed. I have to thank Messrs. Crowe & Rodgers for the excellent photographs which they have given their kind permission to reproduce. I am also indebted to Mr. Walter Bain for the various sketches of the most interesting and ornamental parts of the building.

JAMES RONALD.

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Entrance Gateway from Castle Wynd.

(21) B

The Earl of Argyle's Lodging.

THE town of Stirling is well known to have been a place of great importance while Scotland remained a separate monarchy. In the twelfth century its Castle was a most important stronghold, and in the thirteenth it was the most frequent abode of royalty; but it was while the Stewart kings occupied the throne that it reached its highest point of grandeur as a royal residence. As a consequence, many of the nobility flocked to Stirling, and built or acquired houses for themselves to reside in, to be more convenient for their attendance at Court. The following noblemen, namely, the Earls of Morton, Glencairn, Cassillis, Eglinton, Linlithgow, Lennox, Montrose, Buchan, Argyle, and Mar; also Lords Sempill, Cathcart, Ochiltree, Glammis, Ruthven,

*Nimmo's
History,
page 359.*

and Methven are said to have acquired residences (or "lodgings" as they were then called) in the town. The great majority of these houses have entirely disappeared, but the sites on which a number of them stood are well known, while some are not known at all. Two of these buildings still remain with us, though in a dilapidated and ruinous condition; we refer to the Mar Lodging and the Argyle Lodging. In the following pages we tell the story of the Argyle Lodging, so far as we have ascertained it.

In all probability the Argyle Lodging was built by Archibald, fifth Earl of Argyle, who seems to have frequented Stirling more than any of his predecessors, and he was one of the noblemen who were taken by surprise by the nobles of the Queen's party, on the occasion of what is called the "Raid of Stirling," in September, 1571. Nimmo says, "They instantly surrounded the lodgings of the chief nobility," and as Argyle Lodging was one of these, it follows that it must be of older date than

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Inside Elevation of Entrance Gateway.

1571. It is mentioned for the first time in the published Records of the Burgh on 1st December, 1617, when the Town Council, "remembering the lang and gude service done to the toun be James Duncansone, redare, grantis to him and his aires heretable of xls. addettit yeirlie furth of his tenement of land fornent the Erl of Ergyles hous to St. Thomas alter sumtyme situat in the paroche Kirk of this burgh." We cannot describe this house, because no part of it is in existence, but it must have been a good house, for some important meetings were held in it. In 1622 we find the Earl of Argyle in possession of stables.

The Argyle House stood near to where the Argyle Lodging is now, only farther down the Castle Wynd. The stables were situated within the south wall at the foot of the present King's Stables Road, where the dressings of the doors and windows may still be seen. In the Kirk Session Records they are characterised as "My Lord Argyles Stabillis."

It is well known that all the old feus in Broad Street extend even to the back of the houses in Mary Wynd. In like manner the Argyle feu extended from the Castle Wynd to the stables, so that if the Earl required a horse, he could have it by going down his garden, instead of having to go round by the Mary Wynd.

The Scottish
Nation. In 1617 the lodging would belong to Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyle, who was under age when he succeeded his father. He was born about 1576, and was only eight years old. There were dissensions among his guardians, and one of them, Archibald Campbell of Lochnell, was the next heir to the earldom, and, consequently, had an interest in his death, which he never relinquished as long as he lived. The guardians, who were really interested in his welfare, got him away abroad, and, curiously enough, with William Alexander of Menstrie as his tutor and travelling companion. In 1594 he was appointed the King's Lieutenant against the Popish Earls of Huntly and Errol, who had raised a

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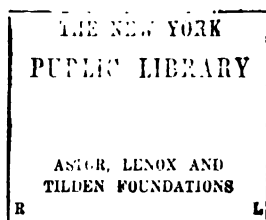


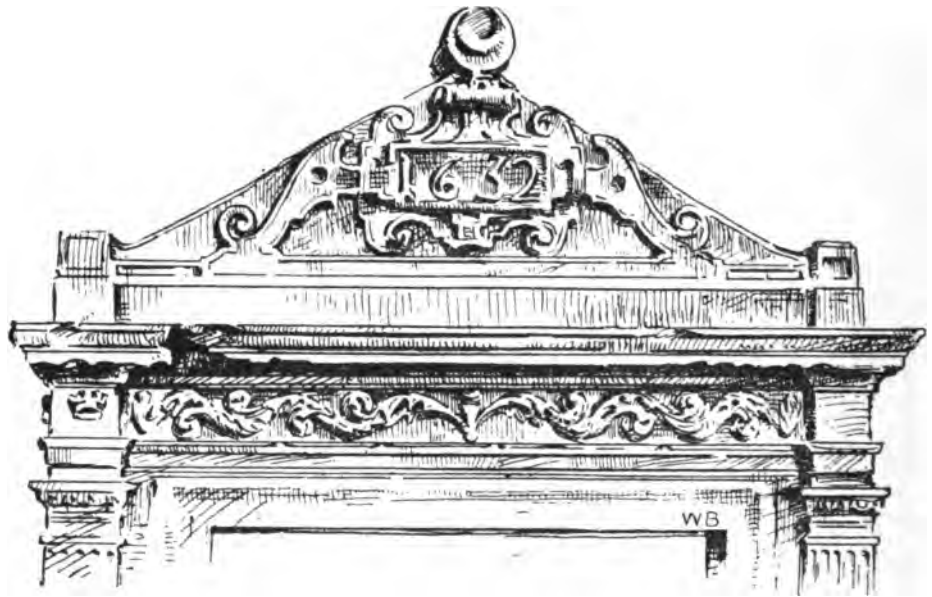
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East Elevation (Quadrangle).

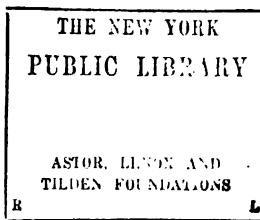
rebellion. The battle, which was called the battle of Glenlivet, was fought on 3rd October, 1594, and Argyle was defeated, but, on being reinforced by the King's army, the rebels were dispersed. One comfort he got out of this battle: the kinsman who so remorselessly sought his life was himself slain. In 1606 the Earl of Argyle was placed second in the rank of Scottish earls. His first wife having died in 1604, he married, in 1610, Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome. This lady was a Roman Catholic, and although the Earl was a warm and zealous Protestant, she gradually drew him over to profess the same faith with herself. It was a dangerous thing being a Roman Catholic in those days; it meant excommunication, banishment, and sometimes even death itself. The Gunpowder Plot, 5th November, 1605, was too near. To show its importance, the parish ministers had to keep an annual thanksgiving service on that day during the king's life for "his merciful deliverance from the poudir treasone." The Earl kept very quiet. On

the occasion of the King's visit in 1617, he gave up his stables for the use of the King's retinue. On 17th June of the same year, he carried the crown at the opening of Parliament in Edinburgh, and this seems to have been his last public appearance. In 1618, on pretence of going to the Spa (in Belgium) for the benefit of his health, he received permission from the King to go abroad; but instead of going to the Spa, he went to Spain, where he made open defection from the Protestant religion. When the King heard of it, he wrote the Privy Council recalling the license given to Argyle to go abroad, and directing that nobleman to be summoned to appear before the Council in the following February, under pain of treason. On the 16th February, the Earl having failed to make his appearance was, with sound of trumpet, and two or three heralds at arms, openly declared rebel and traitor at the Market Cross of Edinburgh. He never again came to Scotland during his lifetime, dying in London in 1638.

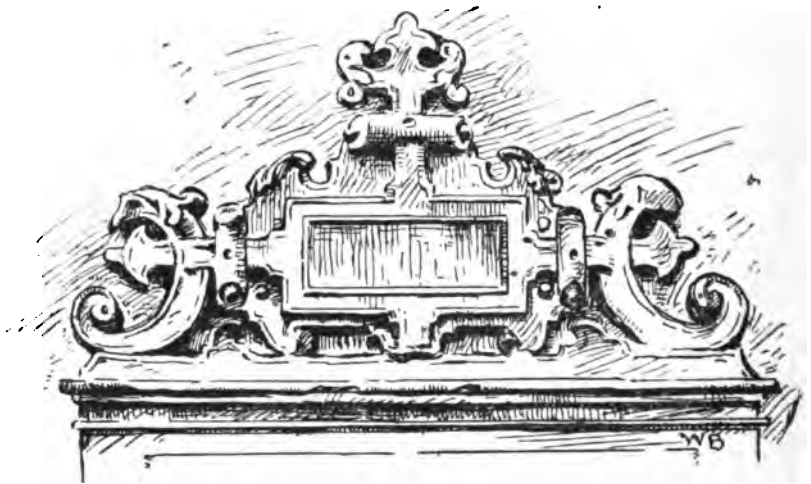




Ornamental Gable Porch.



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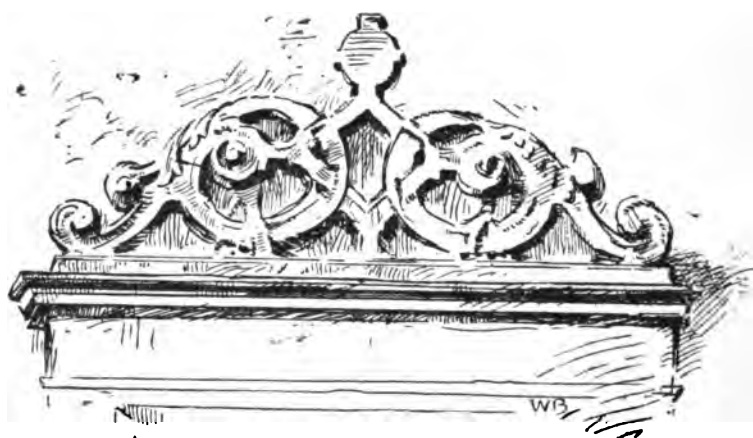
Ornament over Window.

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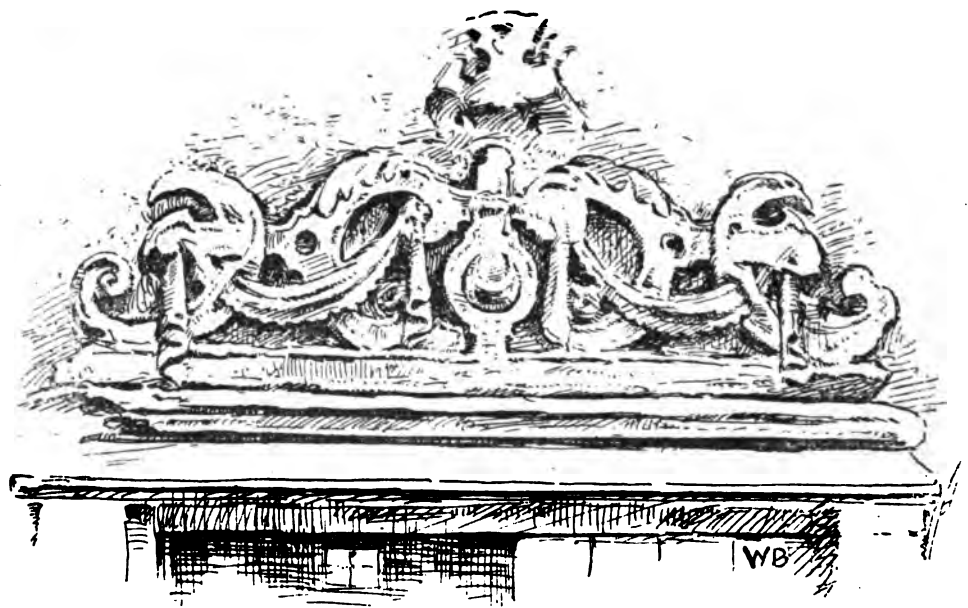
Ornamental Head of Window.

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Ornament over Door, East Elevation.

After his father went to Spain, Archibald, the eighth Earl, and first Marquis of Argyle, managed the affairs of his family and clan. There is reason to believe he was in Stirling in 1622 and 1626. He received his titles after his father's death in 1638, and when Charles I. came to Scotland in 1641, his Majesty created him Marquis of Argyle. He does not seem to have come much to Stirling until 1650, when Charles II. came to Scotland; indeed, he had the principal hand in bringing him. On the King's coronation at Scone on 1st January, 1651, Argyle placed the crown on his Majesty's head, and was the first to swear allegiance to him. He accompanied him to Stirling, and stayed presumably in his own house, and when the King, in June, resolved to march into England, Argyle endeavoured to dissuade him from it, but, nevertheless, he would have accompanied him had not his Countess been lying at the point of death, and he took leave of the King at Stirling. However, the Countess got better, and was in her own house, in

Scotland and
the Common-
wealth.

August, when General Monk and his forces arrived before the town. The town's people made no resistance, and the General and his troops entered the town. The Countess left the town on the 10th August, the day previous to the commencement of the siege of the Castle.

The siege lasted three days, the Governor saying he would keep it as long as he could, but on the fourth day, 14th August, the Highlanders and other soldiers in the garrison mutinied and refused to fight. Whereupon the Governor, Colonel William Coningham, sent out a letter, wherein he desired a treaty ; to which General Monk sent an answer wherein he offered him conditions to march away, himself, officers, and soldiers, with their arms, and that the town's people who had put their goods in the Castle should have the liberty of removing them. The Governor sent out one Captain James Coningham with conditions to surrender, upon which they might treat, and the General appointed Colonel Grosvenour and Colonel Ashfeild to meet with him.

The treaty was held at the Marquis of Argyle's house, and after two hours' debate, wherein they insisted much to have the records, they agreed upon the articles following :—

“ Articles agreed upon between Col. Edward Grosvenour, and Col. Richard Ashfeild, commanders, on the behalf of the Right Honourable Lieut.-General Monk; and Capt. James Coningham, on the behalf of Col. William Coningham, Governor of the Castle of Stirling, for the rendition thereof.

“ 1. That the Governor, and all officers and soldiers, shall have liberty to march with their horses (not exceeding six), arms, beat of drum, lighted matches, and what baggage belongeth to them, to any part of this kingdom, and to have a sufficient convey for five miles beyond any of the garrisons belonging to the forces of the Parliament of England, and such of them which shall be desirous to go to their own houses shall have liberty and passes for that purpose.

“ 2. That all noblemen, gentlemen, and inhabitants of the town of Stirling who have goods in the Castle, shall have eight days' liberty to transport their goods to such place as they shall please, provided that no bedding be removed out of the town without order.

"3. That the Castle of Stirling, with all the ordnance, arms, ammunition, and other provisions of war therein, be delivered unto Lieut.-General Monk, or whom he shall appoint, without any spoil or embezzlement, by ten of the clock to-morrow morning.

"4. That all prisoners which are now in the Castle be forthwith released.

"5. That hostages be forthwith sent for the performance of these articles.

" EDWARD GROSVENOUR.

" RICHARD ASHFELD.

" Aug. 14, 1651.

" I doe hereby ratifie and confirm these articles.

" GEORGE MONK."

Scotland
and the
Protectorate.

In 1654 and 1658, and indeed all through the Protectorate, the Marquis was much in Stirling. From his own house here and elsewhere, he wrote several letters to General Monk, which were afterwards used against him when on his trial in Edinburgh. At the Restoration he went to London to congratulate the king. Arriving there on 8th July, 1660, he was committed to the Tower without

being allowed to see his majesty, and after being confined for five months, was sent to Edinburgh to be tried for his compliance with the usurpation of Cromwell. Surrounded by enemies, especially his arch-enemy, the Earl of Middleton, he was condemned for high treason, and beheaded with the maiden at the Cross of Edinburgh on 27th May, 1661.

He was succeeded by his son, Archibald, ninth Earl of Argyle, who nearly lost his life in his efforts to save the life of his father. As it was, he suffered a long and severe imprisonment in the Castle of Edinburgh, and was only released on 4th June, 1663, when the Earl of Middleton lost his power.*

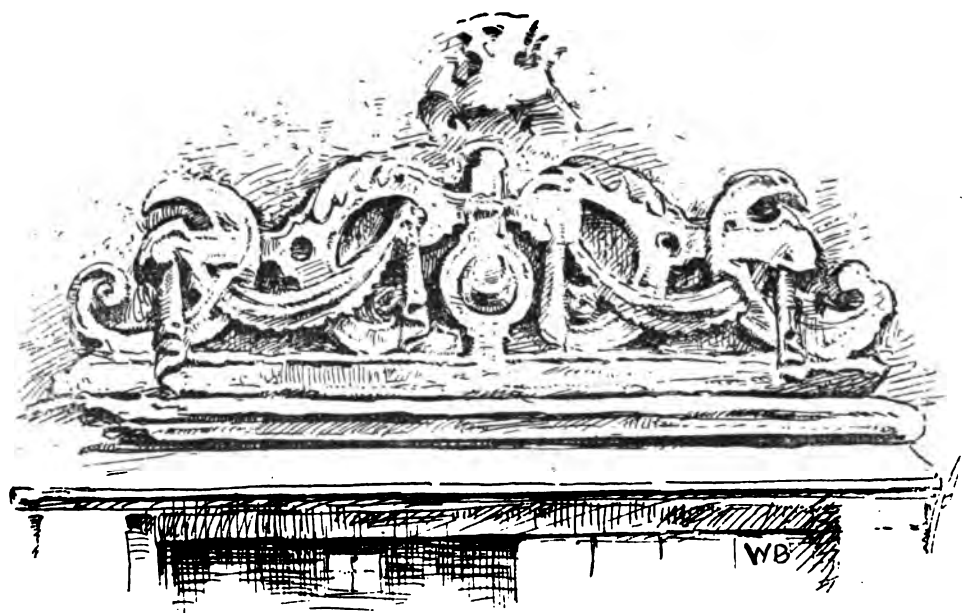
* John Lauder of Fountainhall, who had no great liking for the Earl of Argyle, in his "Journal," page 232, tells the following grim story:—"They say there is some difference fallen in between my Lo. Lauderdale and my Lo. Argyle about some desire my Lo. Lauderdale had in relation to the Lady Balcarras, now Lady Argyle, which Argyle relished not, and said, I think your Grace would take the ward of my marriage. He answered, I may weill have that, for I once had the waired of your head, which was true in anno 1663, when the sentence of death and forfaitor was passed on him as a traitor."

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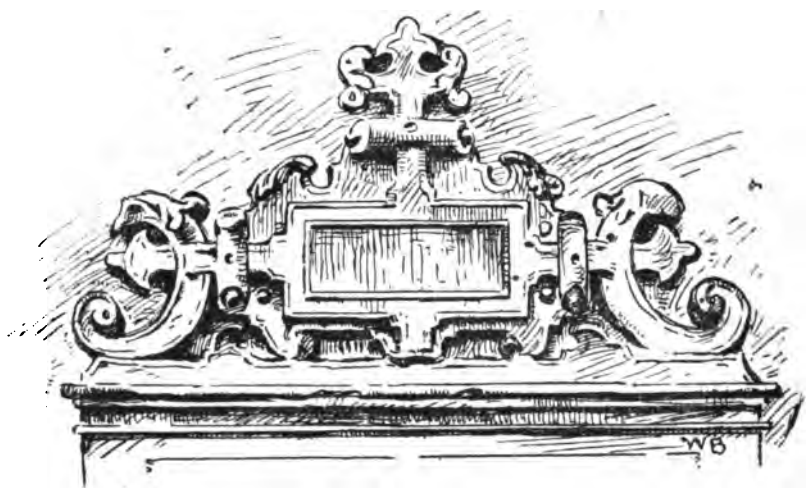
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Ornament over Door, East Elevation.



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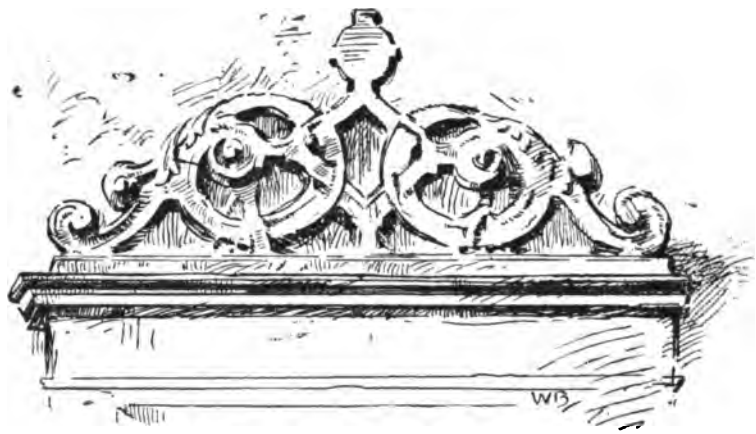
Ornament over Window.

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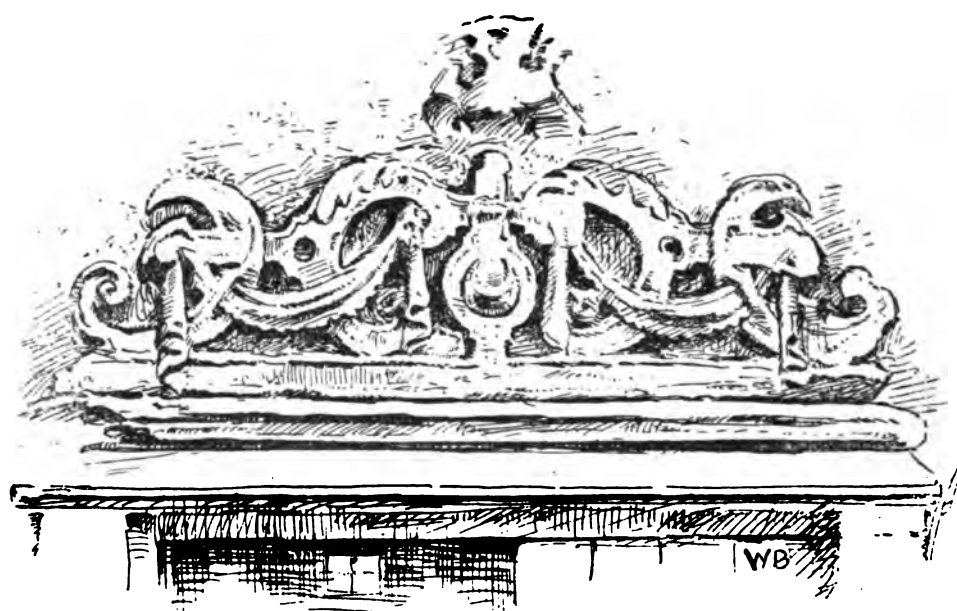
Ornamental Head of Window.

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Ornament over Door, East Elevation.

The Scottish
Nation.

followed him to London. At Court he distinguished himself by his graces and accomplishments, and soon obtained the place of gentleman in attendance on, and tutor to, Prince Henry, the eldest son of King James. Prince Henry died in 1612, and in 1613 Alexander was appointed one of the gentlemen ushers of the presence to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I. Honours were showered upon him; in 1609 he was made a knight; in 1614, Master of Requests; in 1621 he received his patent for the possession of Nova Scotia; in 1625, by a charter dated at Oatlands, on 12th July, King Charles confirmed Sir William Alexander and his heirs in the office of Lieutenant of Nova Scotia, with all the prerogatives so lavishly bestowed by King James, and the right of creating an order of baronets of Nova Scotia. All persons who paid a hundred and fifty pounds for 6000 acres of land were to receive the honour of a baronetcy. Sir William was to have the precedence of all the baronets. The sale of lands proved to him for a time a lucrative traffic,

and he forthwith planted and began to settle a colony at Port Royal, where he erected a fort. He visited the colony in 1627, and in acknowledgment for his safe return from his sea voyage gave to the poor of Stirling "fiftie aucht pounds money." In 1626 he was made principal Secretary for Scotland, and on 4th September, 1630, he was created Lord Alexander of Tullibody, and Viscount Stirling in the Scottish Peerage. *Kirk Session Records.*

REQUIRING A RESIDENCE.

*Kirk Session
Records.*

*Kirk Session
Records.*

A mansion befitting his rank was the next project. He had already rebuilt and enlarged the family residence at Menstrie, which, even as a ruin, presents a massive appearance, but it was not suitable. Lord Stirling evidently felt that as a peer of the realm, and the King's Commissioner, he ought to possess a lordly dwelling, while his title suggested its erection in the town whence it was derived. He had made up his mind to make Stirling his home. On 4th October, 1631, he acquired a seat, or loft, in the Parish Church sufficient to accommodate his family, and also his servants. On 4th September, 1632, he acquired Bowyes Aisle, an old pre-Reformation Chapel which stood on the south side of the Parish Church, for a family burying place. It stands there still, at the present entrance to the church, only the walls have been taken down to within three or four feet from the ground. The

designing of the new mansion was entrusted to the Earl's second son, Anthony Alexander, an eminent architect, and Master of Works to King James for Scotland. In October, 1632, Sir Anthony was presented with the freedom of the burgh, and thus made a burghess of Stirling. He selected as a site for the contemplated mansion a piece of ground in the Castle Wynd, immediately adjoining the Earl of Argyle's Lodging, near to the decorated structure of the Earl of Mar, and the entrance to the Castle, where on every side the view is alike extensive and beautiful.

On a spot so favoured, Sir Anthony Alexander had abundant scope for the exercise of his architectural skill. He proved equal to the task by designing an edifice of massive, yet graceful proportions, and admired by every person of taste even at the present day. It is a large building, three storeys in height, measuring about one hundred feet on the wall facing the east, eighty-eight feet on the north, eighty-one feet on the south, and ninety-six feet of

*Burgh
Records of
date 23rd July,
1664.*

frontage to the Wynd. As will be seen from these sizes it is not exactly square, no two walls being of the same length, and it encloses a quadrangle, no two sides of which are equal. Sir Anthony built the whole range of buildings on the north and east sides, and about twenty feet on the south side of the quadrangle, the remaining part of this side being enclosed with a wall or some mean building, or it may have been enclosed with the disputed partition of "deallis and treis," which would be removed when the Earl of Argyle came to build the south wing in 1674.

The erection of the screen wall, four feet four inches thick, with the massive arched gateway in the centre, and the two polygonal towers facing the Castle Wynd, has been attributed by high authority to the Earl of Argyle. We hold the opinion very strongly that the person who built the north-west wing, where the original vaulted kitchen is, also built the north polygonal tower, and that the person was Sir Anthony Alexander. A glance at the plan is

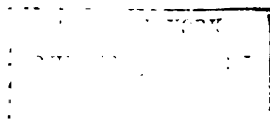
sufficient to convince any person that it could not be otherwise, and, besides, had the Earl of Argyle built the screen wall and the polygonal towers, he would have placed his crest (the boar's head) somewhere upon them, as he did upon all that he built.

The buildings on the east side are three storeys in height, with three tiers of windows, the lower series being partly built up. There are twelve ornamental windows in front, including the dormer windows, and eleven in the back, including the dormers, and all of them differ in design in the pediments. Those in the front are all varied, and richly ornamented with coronets and scrolls interlaced, while those at the back are festooned with clusters of flowers and fruits, all in semi-classical style. The chimneyheads, where joining the roof, are ornamented with highly-relieved scroll carvings. The arms of the Earl of Stirling are displayed on the front wall over the porch.

The porch itself has been a beautiful piece of work in its day ; it is seven feet six inches by five

feet, standing on two pillars and two pilasters, with one opening at each side, and one in front. At one time these three openings had been fitted with doors having crook and band hinges, and the crooks are still to be seen fixed in the stonework. The porch bears the date, 1632, in raised figures. The initials, in raised letters, of William, Earl of Stirling, and Janet, his Countess, with coronets over each of them, appear in the pediments of two windows on the north side of the quadrangle.

The internal arrangements of this mansion were in advance of the time in which it was built. You enter the arched gateway from the Wynd and find yourself on a terrace some two or three feet above the level of the courtyard, with steps leading down in the centre. Right before you is the porch, or main entrance, on entering which you find yourself in the ancient retainers' hall. This large apartment, 47 feet long by about 20 feet wide, is now divided by a slim partition, and partly used as a kitchen. Originally it had a large moulded fireplace at one





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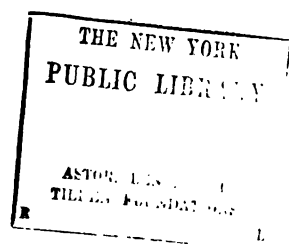
Door to South-East Turret.

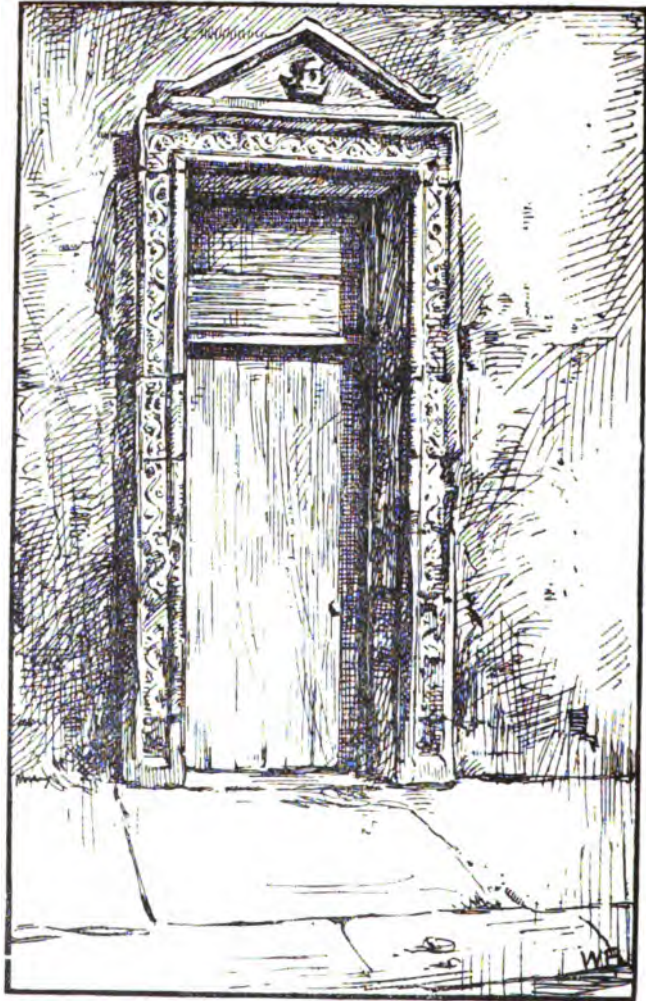
end, and a handsome stair, with a massive oak balustrade at the other end. This stair, which still remains, led up to the room of state, or dining hall, an apartment similar in size to the hall below, having an ornamental carved fireplace, with a carved bust on each jamb, representing a male and female, which may have been the likenesses of the Earl and his Countess; but who can tell? their faces being entirely worn out of shape. This apartment is said to have been lined all round the walls with oak panelling, which is now removed, as not being suitable for its present purpose. Adjoining this hall is another public room, 20 feet by 20 feet, on the walls of which portions of the old oak panelling still remain; it contains also a beautifully carved fireplace. Above the state-room is a grand gallery, or it may have been the drawing-room, 47 feet long by 20 feet wide; it has two fireplaces, and is lighted by six windows, three on each side.

The basement of the north side of the quadrangle is vaulted, and contained the kitchen at the north-

west end, next the street, 16 feet long and 15 feet wide, with its immense fireplace, 15 feet wide, exclusive of the cosy corner, by 5 feet from front to back, capable of roasting an ox whole if required, with a capacious flue, up which the smoke meandered to its exit at the chimney head. The kitchen is provided with an old-fashioned stone sink. The larder adjoined the kitchen, and the hooks for hanging the meat or venison on are still seen to be fixed in the ceiling. At the north-east angle there is another vaulted room, supposed to be the butler's service room, having a large fireplace now built up, with a flue somewhat like the kitchen, only not so large. The intermediate space contains two wine cellars.

In the buildings forming the south side of the quadrangle are various private rooms leading through each other and communicating with the hall. One room, evidently a waiting room, has a separate door from the courtyard, as has also the porter's room at the end of the terrace. Projecting out into the





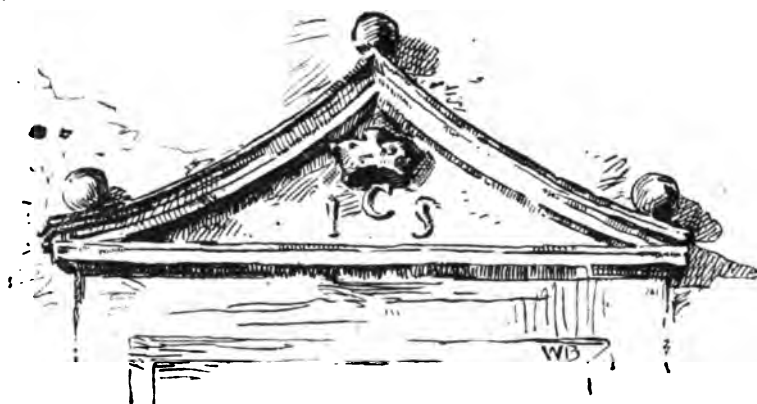
(80)

Ancient Argyle Doorway.

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Countess of Stirling's Initials on top of Window Head
(North Side of Quadrangle).

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
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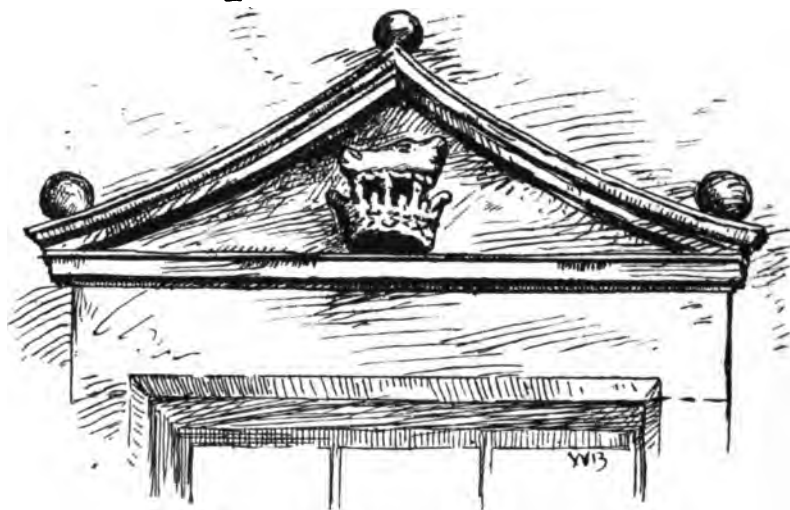
Earl of Stirling's Initials on Window Head
(North Side of Quadrangle).

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(96)

Argyle Crest over Window.

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garden, on the south side is the strong room, communicating with the inner private room.

In addition to the main staircase, three turret stairs give access to the first floor, also continuing to the floors above. The principal turret stair enters off the hall, the turret itself projecting into the courtyard. A fourth turret staircase begins at the landing of the main stair, and continues winding up to the attics. This turret is contained within the building, but rises through the roof of the main building.

There are numerous closets throughout the house ingeniously formed in the thickness of the walls. The large ones had been used as wardrobes ; and as they have never been plastered, the presumption is that they had been lined with oak lining ; each one has a window for light and ventilation. The small closets have narrow slits in the wall for light and air, and would also be lined with oak lining as they have never been plastered. There are three of these on the south side of the quadrangle, and two on the north side, one to each floor. We take these

closets to have been earth closets, the introduction of which would be considered a great improvement on the sanitary customs of that time.

All the door openings in internal and external walls had hewn stone jambs and lintels, with the doors hung on crook and band hinges. Some of the original doors are still to be seen. The servants would be accommodated in the attics over the kitchen premises, in the north wing, with the entrance from the terrace, instead of, as now, from the street. This was necessary for purposes of safety and security.

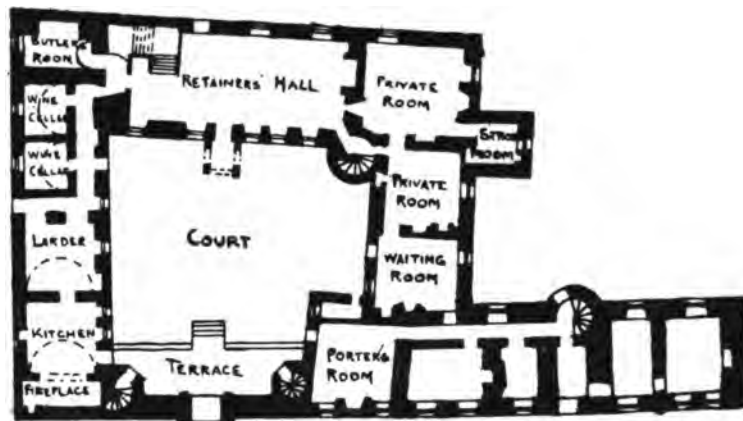
The buildings continuing to the south, and facing the Castle Wynd, form part of the Argyle Lodging proper, which was erected in 1664. So late as 1858 this building existed; it was three storeys in height, with a turret at the back, containing the stairs which led to the upper floors. So far as we can ascertain, it would be a house containing from twelve to sixteen apartments. As it was a very narrow building, the rooms must have been small, and opening the one into the other.

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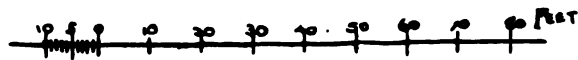
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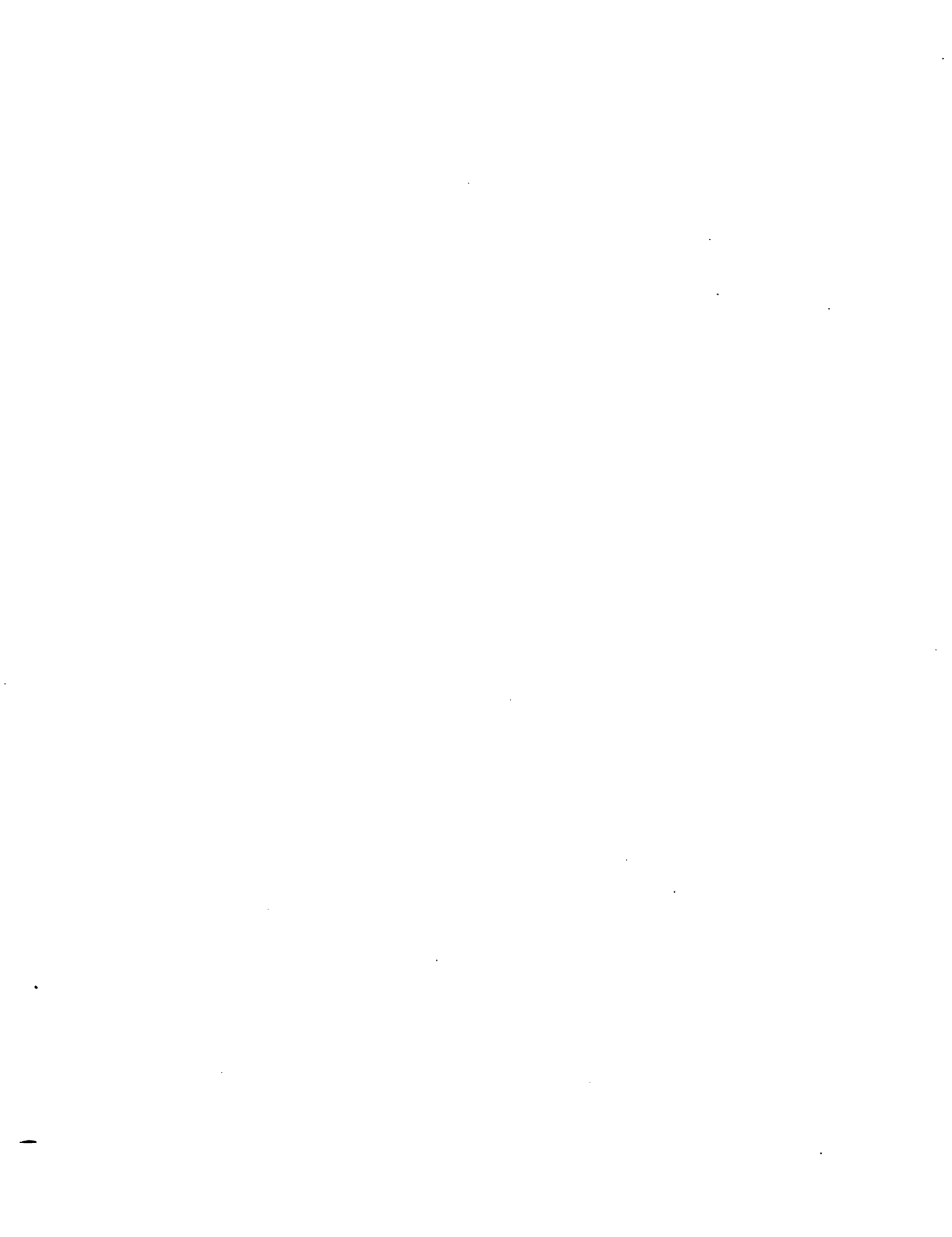


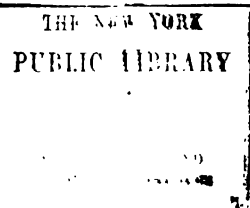
CASTLE WYND

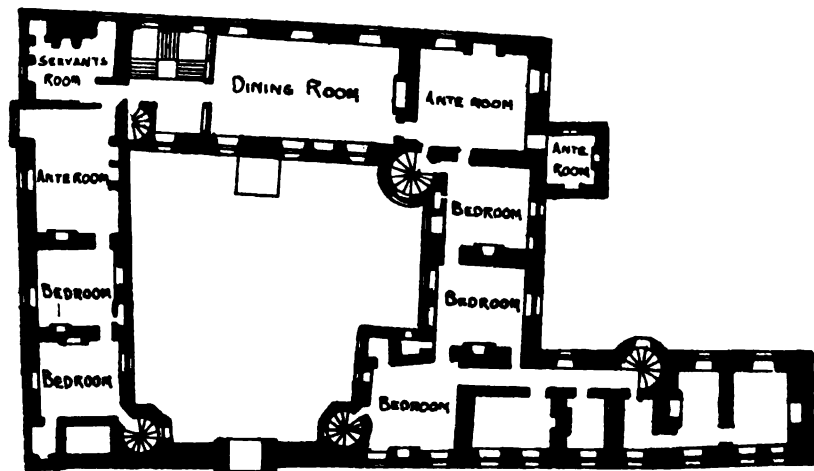


Argyle Lodging, 1674.

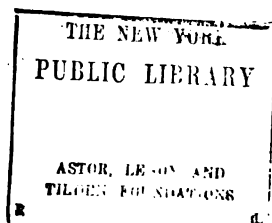
Ground Floor Plan.

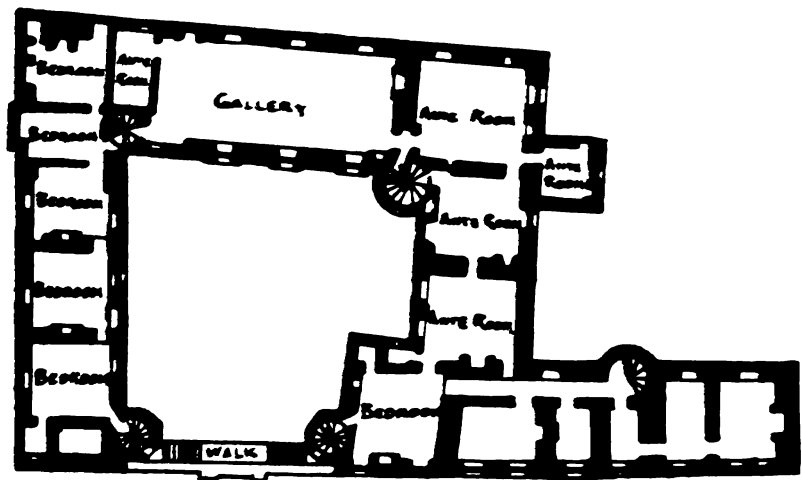






Argyle Lodging, 1674.
First Floor Plan.





Argyle Lodging, 1674.

Second Floor Plan.



DATE OF ERECTION.

Begun in 1632, it was in the autumn of 1635 that the Earl of Stirling entered his grand mansion, only to enjoy it for the short space of five years. He died at his residence in Covent Garden, London, 12th February, 1640, leaving his affairs hopelessly embarrassed. Notwithstanding his embarrassments, he was allowed a funeral befitting his rank. His body was embalmed, and, being placed in a leaden coffin, was conveyed by sea to Stirling, where on 12th April, 1640, it was deposited in the family vault. Two of his sons predeceased him. About the latter end of August, 1637, "Sir Anthony Alexander, Knight, second son of William, Earl of Stirling, and Master of His Majesty's Works for the kingdom of Scotland, departed this life at London, from whence his corpse, being embalmed, was brought by sea, and by torchlight privately interred in Boweys Aisle in the Church of Stirling." Before

he had ceased mourning for his second son, his eldest son died unexpectedly of fever in London. This was William, Lord Alexander and Viscount of Canada, said to have been a youth of great talent and much promise, who had been educated at the University of Glasgow, had taken some share in public affairs, and had acted for a year as his father's deputy in America. He is also said to have been interred in a similar manner to his brother in the family vault at Stirling.*

Prior to the wreck of his father's affairs, Charles Alexander, his fifth son, had acquired a right to the Stirling Mansion. He held it till his death, which took place about the year 1664. He left an only son, also named Charles.

* The Countess of Stirling's parents, Sir Wm. Erskine and Joanna, his wife, were also interred in this vault. The following Kirk Session Record shows that Sir William was interred in it before the Earl of Stirling acquired it, and may have been the reason why he purchased it. 30 August, 1631 :—
“ The quhilk day Johne Cowane (the founder of Cowane's Hospital) proponit to the brethren ane overtour concerning Sir Wm. Erskine's armes to be put in the hospitall (or Bowyes) isle, quhair umquhill Sir William his corps lyeth, to

Some time after the Town Council of Stirling, who, as Patrons of Spittal's Hospital, held a mortgage on the mansion for one thousand pounds, charged his son Charles to enter service as heir, and on his declining to do so they foreclosed and took possession of the house.

*Burgh
Records,
Vol. I.,
page 250.*

The Town Council having this large house thrown on their hands, thought the best use they could put it to was to convert it into an almshouse for the pensioners on Spittal's Hospital. They immediately began to furnish it with beds and other plenishing needful for this purpose. But it was not to be ; their next neighbour, the Earl of Argyle, on the plea of finding fault with a fence which they had put up, sent his Chamberlain, William Blackburne, to order its removal. This meeting resulted in

wit, either without claiming the propertie to the said laire, or to pay for the propertie of so much, or then to buy the isle off the town. The quhilk overtour being voted be the sessione, the brethren remitted the same to the counsall to be done heirin to thair pleasour." We do not know if ever the coat of arms was put up, but the Earl erected a monument to their memory, with an elaborate Latin inscription. See appendix.

*Burgh
R.cords.*

further meetings, at which negotiations were entered into and continued, with the ultimate result that the Earl of Stirling's mansion was sold to the Earl of Argyle. In January, 1666, the Town Council granted a disposition in favour of Lord Lorn "of that hous and ludging quhilk pertained to umquhile Sir William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, and umquhile Charles Alexander his son, on payment of one thousand pounds."

The following extracts from the Burgh Records show the progress of the negotiations; they also mention Argyle's "New lodgeing":—

23rd July, 1664.—"Robert Stevinsone, proveist, signified to the Council that Maister Williame Blackburne, chamberlane of Campbell for the Earle of Argyll, had been at him showing that he was ordeaned by my lord his maister to desire the Magistratis to remove that partition of deallis and trees which the maisteris of the nether hospitall had removed and put upe neirer to the corner of my lordis new lodgeing then was of old, and because the proveist could not do anything thairin without acquainting of the Councill, who haveing now

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Original Oak Stair leading to First Floor.

seriouslie considered the same, and that the said partition was removed at the said Maister Williames desire for the saiftie of my lords lodgeing and for noe uther end, they appoynt the proveist, one or twa of the baillies, deane of gild, convener, and the maisteris, to meet with Maister Williame and desire him to acquaint my lord his maister that the partition salbe removed and put upe as it was formerly soe soon as his lordship comes to towne, and that it may be forborne till then that the magistrates may speak with his lordship thairannent, and if my lord will have it removed, the maisteris are ordeaned to doe the same as it was of old."

Robert Stevinsone, proveist, James Russell, baillie, and James Norie, towne clerk, being in Edinburgh some time after on other business, reported on 6th August, 1664, "that they had spoken with the Earle of Argyll, and informed his lordship of the trewth anent the removall of the partition out of its place; and anent the yaird contraverted, his lordship and they hes aggried that maister George Norvell cognosce upon parties rightis and determine the difference." After this the partition disappears from the record, and the purchase of the property is now in active negotiation, as on date 11th September, 1665, when "Gilbert Robertson being appointed be the magistratis as ane of the maisteris of

the nether hospitall to goe to Edinburgh and setle with Maister George Norvell anent the difference betwixt the Earle of Argyll and the said hospitall, made report that all that my lord can be persuaded to give for Charles Alexanderis hous adjudged be the hospitall is onelie one thousand pounds payable in 4 yearis tyme, and bearing annual rent from Whitsonday last, for the which my lord is to give his owin band (bond) and is to have a right frae the Maisteris with the Counsellis consent of the said hous and utheris*landis conteanit in the adjudicatione taken in my Lord Lorns name, which he hes caused draw at Edinburgh, and the hospitall is to get all the plennishing the maisteris made and put in for the accommodation of the poor; and the said hous is to be redd at the delyverie of the band; wherewith the counsall declares themselves satisfied and approves of the aggriment."

*Burgh
Records.*

The Council further appointed one of the Magistrates and the masters of the Hospital "to deliver the keys of the hous to such as sall be appointed to receave the same." And on 30th June, 1677, "they caused Charles Alexanderis band to be deleitt furth of the accounts in regaird the Earl of Argyle hes gevin band to the maisteris of

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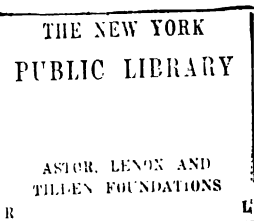
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(190)

Hall Fireplace, showing Carved Mantelpiece.





(180)

Ante Hall Fireplace, showing Carved Mantelpiece.

(181)

the Nether Hospitall for the soum of ane thousand pounds in satisfaction thair of." Needless to say that the purchase included the late Earl's family burial place, and his loft or seat in the Parish Church.

In 1674 Lord Argyle built the south wing, thus completing the south side of the quadrangle, and making the Earl of Stirling's Lodging and the Argyle Lodging into one building. One can easily trace the connection by observing the crest of the Argyle family (the boar's head) carved over each window of the Argyle portion.

The Argyle Lodging alone extended further down the Wynd than is seen to-day, and when the whole was complete, it must have been a princely mansion fit to entertain royalty—so it is no surprise to learn that seven years afterwards the Duke of York, afterwards James VII., on his visit to Stirling in 1681, was entertained in it.

In this building, too, John, second Duke of

Argyle, held a council of war prior to the Battle of Sheriffmuir in September, 1715.

And within it, in 1746, the Duke of Cumberland passed a few nights while on his way to crush out the Rebellion.

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(136)

Dry Closet.

THE PROPERTY NOW CHANGES
HANDS.

In 1760, when Bishop Pococke was here, he called it "the Duke of Argyle's ruined house." It was evidently getting into a dilapidated condition through neglect, indeed, partly ruinous ; and John, fourth Duke of Argyle, no doubt finding it burdensome, on 20th December, 1764, exposed for sale the whole buildings, including the Earl of Stirling's family burying-place, also his seat in the kirk, which were then purchased by Robert Campbell, merchant in Stirling, and James Wright of Loss, in Logie parish, equally betwixt them. Campbell soon after conveyed his half to James Wright, and assigned the unexecuted procuratory in his favour.

*Pococke's
Tours in
Scotland,
page 294.*

James Wright of Loss having died bankrupt, his estates were sold under the authority of the Court of Session, and the properties in Stirling were

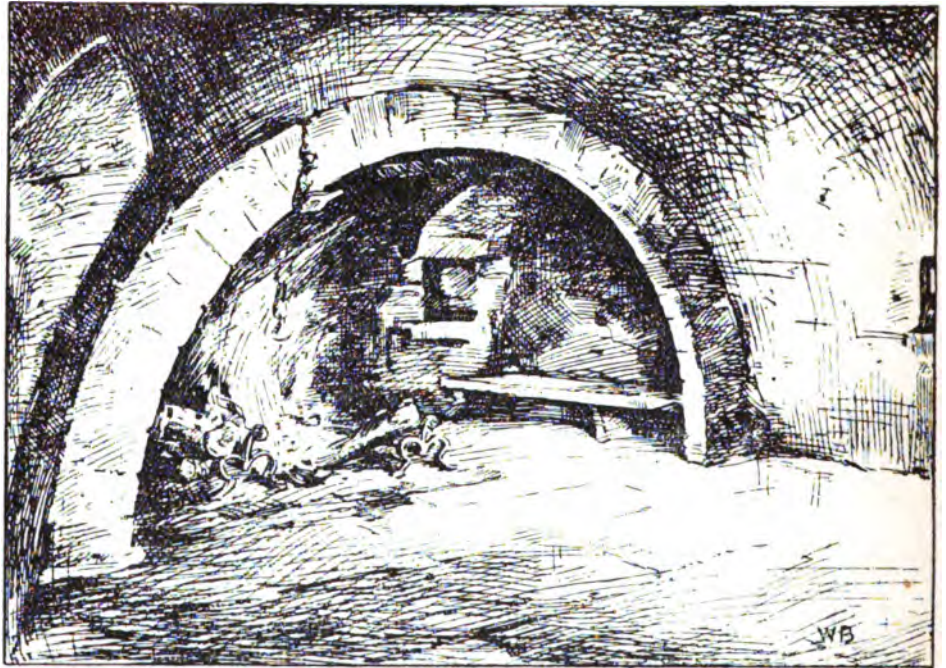
purchased for behoof of Alexander Drummond M'Gregor of Balhaldie, in whose favour a charter of adjudication and sale was granted by the Managers appointed for the Burgh of Stirling during its disfranchisement, on 25th March, 1777, and on which he was infest and his sasine recorded in the Burgh Register of this date, 2nd April. After M'Gregor of Balhaldie acquired the property, he lived in it, and also occupied the seat in the church. At his death, Lieutenant William Oliphant M'Gregor, of His Majesty's 65th Regiment of Foot, was infest as heir to his father, and his sasine was recorded in the Burgh Register of date 7th May, 1796, in the property acquired by his father from the creditors of James Wright of Loss. As it turned out afterwards, this sasine, while it included the mansion or Argyle Lodging, did not include the Earl of Stirling's Aisle or burying place, nor his seat or loft in the Parish Church. And thereby hangs a tale.

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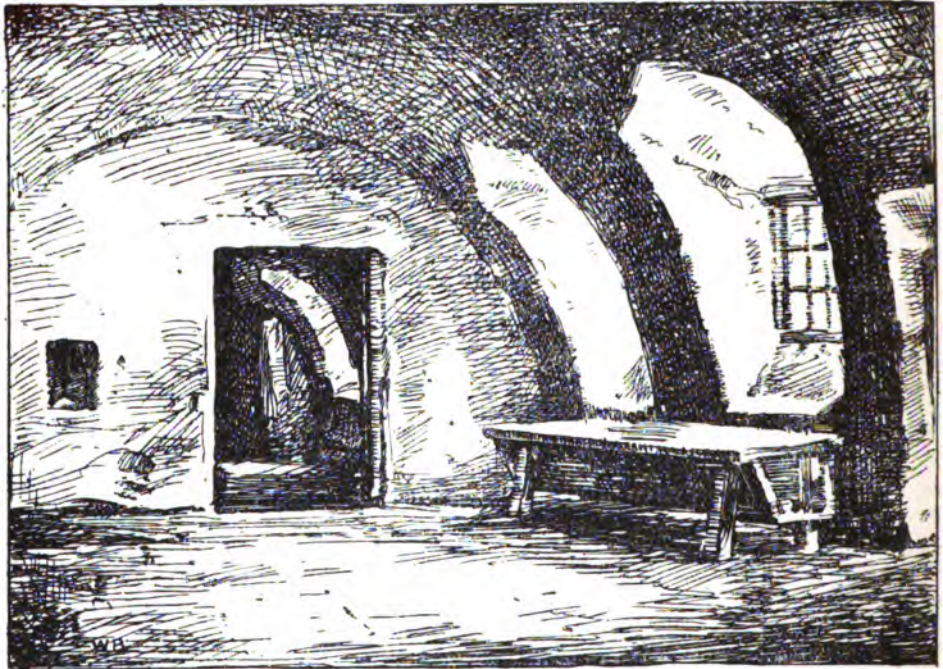
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Ancient Kitchen, showing Fireplace.

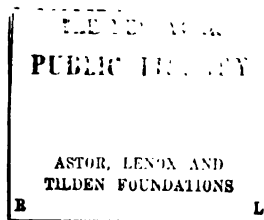
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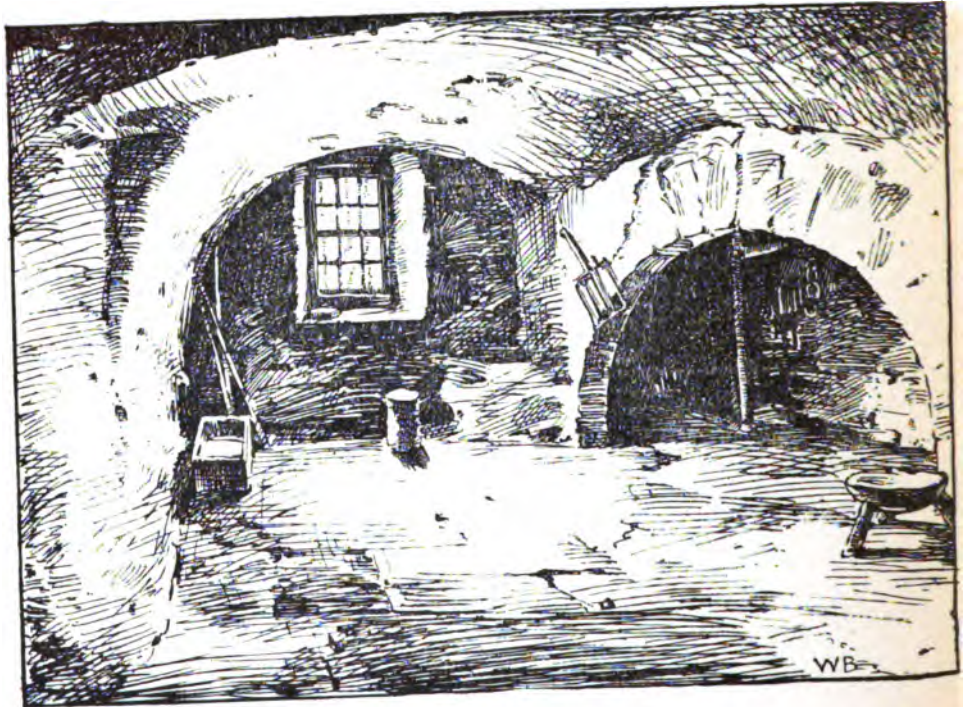
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Ancient Larder.



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(150)

Ancient Butler's Service Room.

(151)

WHAT BECAME OF THE SEAT OR LOFT.

In 1802 and 1803 the East Church received a thorough repair; all the pews and other seats were removed from the ground floor, and from the transept, into which they had extended, and the whole galleries and lofts were taken down.

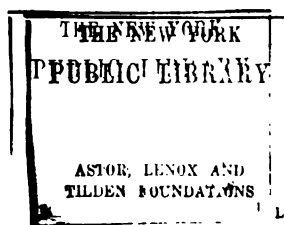
The whole area and side aisles were seated anew; new galleries were erected; and the pulpit, which had previously been fixed against a pillar on the north side of the church, was placed at the west end of the church, between the two great pillars which separate the church from the transept.

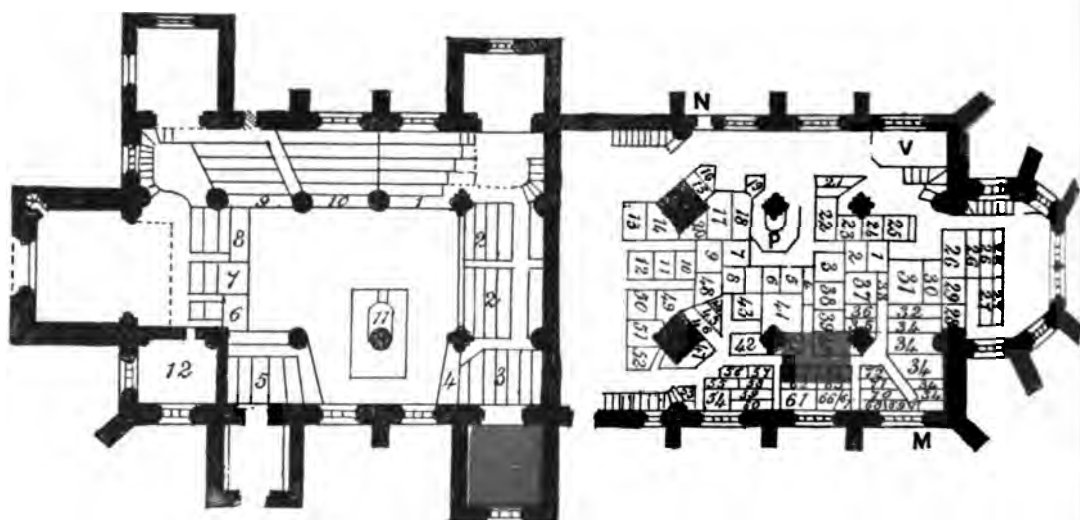
In the allocation of the newly-erected seats among the parties who occupied seats before the alteration, the Magistrates gave very general satisfaction except in one or two instances; and the parties having carried the case to the Court of Session, their Lordships affirmed the division made by the Magistrates,

It was in this way that a plan was made of the seating in the area of the church. But no plan was ever made of the seating in the old galleries.

In the gallery, immediately above the seats marked 40 and 41 on the area plan, was situated the Earl of Stirling's, afterwards the Argyle loft or seat, subsequently acquired and occupied by M'Gregor of Balhaldie. When the Town Council were about to remove the pews and galleries throughout the church, notice was given that all parties claiming an interest therein might lodge evidence of their claims to possess the same, that proper places might be assigned them in the church when it was reseated.

Two claims were in consequence lodged in reference to the loft in question, one by Mr. William M'Killop, who produced a disposition dated 29th January, 1782, by Alexander M'Gregor of Balhaldie, in favour of his father, the late William M'Killop, writer in Stirling, to the "wester part or half in breadth from the west towards the east of that high loft in the Church of Stirling opposite to the pulpit,





Red shows Earl of Stirling's
Aisle or Burying Place.

Red shows Earl of Stirling's
Loft or Seat.

Parish Church, 1803.

Plan ofittings.

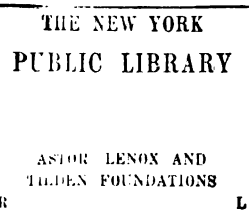
(167)

with the front square seat or pew and servants' seat immediately at the back of the said pew upon that part of the loft as previously divided." And Mr. James Wright, writer in Stirling, produced a disposition dated 16th February, 1782, also by Alex. M'Gregor of Balhaldie, in favour of James Wright, himself, and Thomas Wright, merchant there, his brother, of "that eastern part or half in breadth from the east towards the west of that high loft in the Church of Stirling opposite to the pulpit, with the front square seat or pew and range of seats at the back thereof, being three in number, with privilege of entry thereto, some time belonging to the Duke of Argyll, and afterwards to James Wright of Loss." The claims lodged by these parties were sustained, and when the renewed seats were allocated on 17th September, 1803, pews in the gallery were substituted and accepted by the claimants.

This gallery was removed in 1868, but the representatives of the Wright family still hold an entire seat in the area of the East Church.

WHAT BECAME OF THE EARL OF STIRLING'S AISLE.

In 1817 it was resolved by the Town Council to call a third minister, and to refit and repair the West Church for his accommodation. The famous architect, Mr. Gillespie Graham, was consulted as to the best mode of repairing and refitting the church, and, among other things, he recommended, in order to afford better light, that all the chapels built against the walls of the church should be taken down, and the openings by which they were entered enlarged and filled up with Gothic windows similar to the windows then in existence. Exclusive of St. Andrew's Chapel, which was not interfered with, it being in better order than the others, there were at that time three erections against the walls—Duncan Paterson's Aisle at the north-west corner of the church, the old Porch at the second bay of the south





(162)

Parish Church,
Showing Earl of Stirling's Aisle or Burying Place.
Elevation (Red).

aisle, and the Earl of Stirling's Aisle on the south side, adjoining the present entrance. These recommendations were approved by the Town Council, and in carrying them out it was necessary to take them down. The Earl of Stirling's was the only one objected to be taken down.

Mr. James Wright had for some time claimed to bury in this chapel, and had buried one or two of his children in it. He claimed it under his title from M'Gregor of Balhaldie, during the time he was his private law agent. However, he acquiesced in the taking down of the chapel to within three feet from the ground. This might have warned the Town Council how they meddled with this building, but it did not, as we will see later on.

THE MAKING OF THE CEMETERY.

In 1857 the Town Council acquired the Earl of Mar's garden for the purpose of making a large addition to the burying-ground. The old church-yard, at that time, came close up to the church on the north and west sides, and partly on the south side ; and there were many enclosed places between the buttresses of the East Church, in which parties claimed not only the right, but used them, for interment. Of course these places marred the appearance of the church very much, and the Town Council wished them removed. We are not sure that the manner in which they were removed was very creditable to the Town Council, but perhaps it was unavoidable. In the course of one month the walls of three of these burying places on the south and north-east sides of the church were by some person or persons pulled down during the night, and as the parties to whom they belonged allowed the

stones to lie for several days, the Commissioners of Police caused them to be removed and laid aside in a place of safety, because the way to the church and churchyard was rendered impassable. The Town Council professed to have no knowledge of who threw down the walls, and, with one exception, the parties aggrieved took no steps to restore the walls, but acquiesced in their removal. The one exception was the late Mr. John T. Wingate, solicitor, who held by his ground, and whose remains are interred in it, at the north-east end of the apse of the church, enclosed with an iron railing, with a flat granite slab upon it outside of the cemetery gate. Another notable case arose out of this meddling with other people's property. Mrs. Mary Wright or Burns of Garvald, daughter of James Wright, who acquired the Earl of Stirling's burial-place from M'Gregor of Balhaldie, being apprehensive that her burying-place would be interfered with, as indeed it was (for one night a good part of the railing round it was broken down), instructed her agent to lodge a case of sus-

pension and interdict in the Court of Session against the Town Council of Stirling. The Town Council, while denying all knowledge of who broke the railing, defended on the plea that this was not the Earl of Stirling's aisle, and that the pursuer had no right to sue. It was, however, a very different matter when the pursuer's counsel produced her title to the burial-place in question. The result was that Mrs. Burns won her case. The Earl of Stirling's aisle or burying-place is, therefore, still the property of the representatives of the Wright family, and a white marble tablet, fixed on the side of the buttress over it, tells the names of all those of the family who are buried in it.

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Gateway, Argyle Lodging.

ARGYLE LODGING IN THE HANDS OF THE CROWN.

After this long digression we come back to the Argyle lodging, and find it in the year 1796 in the hands of Lieutenant M'Gregor of Balhaldie, by whom it was sold to the Crown a few years later. The Government now use it solely as a Military Hospital, and keep what they use of it in good condition and repair. But what of the Argyle Lodging proper? We have seen that Bishop Pococke, on his visit to Stirling in 1760, called it "ruinous." Of the Argyle Mansion, erected in 1664, no part remains except the door and two or three windows, now built up and utilised as a boundary wall.

Of the south wing, erected in 1674, more than one-half has been taken down to the level of the first storey, the openings being built up, and used

as a boundary wall. So long as the Castle was occupied by a full regiment of soldiers, this portion was used to accommodate the non-commissioned officers. In 1858 it was used as the barrack-master's quarters, while another portion was used as the barrack-sergeant's quarters. After it ceased to be occupied by a full regiment, and became only a recruiting depot, the non-commissioned officers left the Argyle Lodging, and this portion, not being much required, went to decay. Soon after, it became dangerous, and had to be taken down. As compared with the Earl of Stirling's mansion, the Argyle portion is much inferior both in masonry and design. A glance at Chambers's "Picture of Stirling," 1830, and the Ordnance Survey Map of 1858, will show the great alteration which has taken place since that time.

However, we are thankful that the whole of the Earl of Stirling's mansion is left to us, as it forms one of the finest examples of the architecture of the seventeenth century. By one authority it is stated

to be "the finest specimen of a nobleman's lodging or town-house in Scotland." It remains the monument of its architect, Sir Anthony Alexander.

"Si monumentum requiris circumspecte."

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Argyle Lodging, 1830.

APPENDIX.

The Rev. Dr. C. Rogers, in his "Week at Bridge of Allan," of which an edition was published in 1858, page 103, has the following statements :—

"An effort is being made to restore to its proper position, in the external southern wall of the West Church, a sandstone tablet of curious interest, which formerly denoted the burying-ground of the first Earl of Stirling. This tablet, now in the possession of a private party in Broad Street, was lately deciphered, and has been found to present the following Latin inscription" :—

"Hic jacet in spe resurrectionis Gulielmus Æreskinus equestris ordinis cum Joanna conjugē, illustri et communi Æreskinorum familia orta, singulari virtute femina, unica filia superstitē quæ postera Gulielmo Alexandro Equiti egregio Jacobo regi a supplicibus libellis, Carolo regi ab Epistolis, proventusque regni annonis nupsit, Eam filiam amor ejus numerosa sobole auxit et hoc monumentum parentibus illustribus posuit."

[*Translation.*]

"Here lies, in hope of the resurrection, William Erskine of the order of knights, along with his wife Joanna, a woman of singular virtue, of illustrious birth, and sprung from the main line of the Erskines, leaving behind them an only daughter, who was afterwards married to William Alexander, a distinguished knight, master of requests to King James, secretary and commissioner of Exchequer to King Charles. His love has blessed that daughter with a numerous offspring, and has reared this monument to her illustrious parents."

At the time Dr. Rogers speaks of, the feeling was very strong and bitter, and no wonder the effort failed to get it restored. But we are far removed from that bitterness now, and it might be worth while for the Town Council to make inquiry regarding it; possibly an effort made now would be successful. There can be no doubt its restoration would prove another attraction to the old Parish Church.

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BAILIE RONALD.

BAILIE RONALD:

A MEMOIR

BY

DAVID B. MORRIS.

Memoir.

JAMES RONALD, the author of this volume, was born in Stirling in 1838. After three or four years of early childhood spent at Chartershall, he returned to the town, where he received his education at Mr. Michael Jacob's school in Friars Street, and at the mathematical classes of the late Mr. Duncan M'Dougall. His father was a builder, and when James left school, at the age of fifteen, he became apprenticed to that trade. The first work at which he was engaged was the building of the High School, for which his father was contractor. In his young manhood he was greatly influenced by his uncle, William Forrest, a nailer at Chartershall, who seems to have been in some ways a remarkable man. What struck young Ronald chiefly in his uncle's character was his unbending uprightness, and there can be little doubt that this influence was

wholly for the young man's good, and that it bore fruit in after years. To the last Mr. Ronald bore testimony to the great respect in which he held the memory of his relative.

After finishing his apprenticeship, Mr. Ronald spent some time in London, where he superintended the erection of a building for Messrs. Nelson, the publishers. On his return to Stirling he began business with the late Mr. William Dougall, under the firm name of Dougall & Ronald. On Mr. Dougall's retiral, Mr. Ronald carried on the business until it was taken over by his two sons about a year before his death. Many important buildings in Stirling and district were built by him. So thorough was all his work that he enjoyed the most implicit confidence of the architects and of all who employed him. Among his workmen Mr. Ronald was regarded with great respect and affection, and many of them were for a lifetime in his service. Mr. Ronald had a great knowledge of buildings and their value, and his services were frequently called

in as arbiter, or valuator, or adviser in all matters concerning house property.

For many years Mr. Ronald took a deep interest in the public affairs of his native town. His first appearance as a municipal representative was in 1876, when he was elected by the ratepayers to the Stirling Waterworks Commission. Two years afterwards he entered the Town Council, sitting for Baker Street Ward, and he continued in the Council until 1892. He was elected a Bailie in 1884, and after serving in that capacity for five years he was appointed Honorary Treasurer. He was a Governor of the Stirling Educational Trust for ten years. Of Mr. Ronald's work in the Town Council and the strenuous doings in which he was a participator, this is not the place to speak. Suffice it to say that in all he did he carried the respect of friend and opponent alike. In the words of his old colleague, Provost Thomson,—“What he did he did with all his might, giving his best energies to his own business, of which he was a capable master, and

also to the service of the town, of which he was so worthy and respected a citizen. I think the word, thorough, was specially characteristic of him and his work."

Mr. Ronald was a member of the Free South Church, in which he was for many years an elder, and was the close friend of its succession of worthy ministers, the Revs. Alexander Leitch, W. F. Goldie, and John Arnott. The old church, and all that concerned its welfare, were close to his heart. When, in 1902, the centenary of the erection of the church was celebrated, shortly before the congregation removed to their present church in Murray Place, it was suggested that Mr. Ronald should write the history of the old building behind the High School. This he did, and at the afternoon service on 4th May, Mr. Arnott read it to a keenly interested audience. The paper was published in a little booklet, under the title of "The Story of the South Church, Stirling."

It was as a local antiquary that Mr. Ronald

performed the work for which his name will be chiefly remembered, and it was through the medium of the Stirling Natural History and Archæological Society that most of the results of his research saw the light. He became a member of the Society on 14th November, 1889, the evening on which he read the first part of his first paper, namely, that entitled "The Story of the Parish Church of Stirling." The great value of the paper as a bit of original research was at once recognised, and Mr. Ronald was henceforward looked upon as an authority on the subject of local antiquities. It was thus somewhat late in life that Mr. Ronald took up literary work, and it is interesting to have his own explanation of the circumstances which led him to undertake what proved such a congenial task. In the preface to his volume on "Landmarks of Old Stirling," he says, "When holding office in the Town Council of Stirling some years ago, I had frequent opportunities of scanning the interesting old records and other documents in the Burgh Chambers, and I had not

gone far in my perusal of them until I discovered that they contained a perfect mine of materials fitted to throw light on the ancient buildings, lands, and crofts of our good old burgh. The papers contained in this volume are in great measure the result of these researches." The first subject to which he gave attention was the localising of places mentioned in the Burgh records. In the course of his investigation he came across many interesting entries as to the Parish Church, and, leaving the ancient localities to another day, he plunged into the story of that building. This was to him a most congenial subject, owing to the deep religious element which was in his nature, and to his knowledge of, and keen interest in, all matters pertaining to architecture. He had also a strong sympathy for the human story which the fine old building on the hill could tell to the patient investigator. He believed the words of Ruskin, which he quoted, to be specially true of our church, "that the greatest glory of a building is not in its stones or in its gold; its glory is in its age, and in

that deep sense of voicelessness, of stern watching, of mysterious sympathy, which we feel in walls that have long been washed by the passing waves of humanity." Such were Mr. Ronald's sentiments in regard to the Parish Church of Stirling. In this paper he set for ever at rest the belief that the Greyfriars ever had anything to do with the building.

Mr. Ronald was from time to time asked to conduct over the church societies or parties specially interested in the subject, and to explain its architectural features. Such requests brought about a struggle between his natural diffidence, which inclined him to say "No," and his enthusiasm for the ancient structure, which influenced him to say "Yes." If the latter prevailed, the party found in Mr. Ronald a most reliable guide, whose words, if few, threw a flood of light on what he believed to be the most ancient and interesting building in the town, and on the development of ecclesiastical and burghal life, of which for centuries it had been a silent witness. He read a paper to the Aberdeen

Ecclesiological Society when they visited the church in September, 1899, and another paper to the Edinburgh Architectural Association, on their visit in May, 1903.

Having finished his paper on the Parish Church, Mr. Ronald returned to his investigations into the "Names and Localities of the Old Lands and Crofts in and around Stirling," under which title he read a paper to the Stirling Natural History and Archæological Society in October, 1890. When Mr. Renwick, Depute Town Clerk of Glasgow, was preparing for the press one of the volumes of the Burgh Records of Stirling, it occurred to him to ask Mr. A. B. M'Donald, City Engineer, Glasgow, to prepare a plan of Stirling in the seventeenth century, a task for which Mr. M'Donald, being a native of Stirling, was peculiarly fitted. Mr. M'Donald agreed, and meeting Mr. Ronald soon after, the matter was discussed, and Mr. Ronald promised to assist in getting information. This set him to reading the old records in the possession of the

Town Council, and was the circumstance from which all his antiquarian labours grew. Mr. M'Donald's plan was published in the volume of Burgh Records, but by the time Mr. Ronald read his paper, some farther facts had been ascertained, and the plan, with some additional detail, was re-published along with Mr. Ronald's volume on "Landmarks of Old Stirling." At the close of the paper, he added a note on "The Ancient Bridge of Stirling in 1297," to which reference will hereafter be made.

In all Mr. Ronald's investigations, one subject led to another. His previous paper had suggested "The Story of the Old Bridge of Stirling" (by which is meant the old bridge still standing). Indeed, he had contemplated telling that story as part of the paper on "Names and Localities," but the materials grew upon him in such a way that he had to postpone dealing with the bridge until the following year. In December, 1891, his paper on that subject was read. This paper, dealing as it did with the defence of the town, led naturally to that on

"The Town Wall of Stirling" read in November, 1893. Referring to the portion of the wall still standing, the paper concluded with the "hope that the wall may long be allowed to stand as a memorial of the past history of the burgh and a witness to the struggles of our forefathers for independence and freedom," a sentiment which we should like to see shared by every inhabitant of the burgh. In this paper Mr. Ronald identified with great exactness the sites of the various "ports" or gates, and at his instance the places where the "Barrasyett," at the junction of Port Street and Dumbarton Road, and the "New Port," in the middle of King Street, were situated, were marked by letters formed of red granite blocks inserted in the causeway of the street.

In January, 1894, the late Mr. T. L. Galbraith, Town Clerk, received from the late Marquis of Bute a memorandum stating that he had in contemplation a heraldic work dealing with the Municipal Arms of the Burghs of Scotland, including Burgh Seals, and desiring to be supplied with information as to the

seals of Stirling. Mr. Galbraith spoke to Mr. Ronald, and what information could be gathered was sent on. The volume was published in 1897, under the following title, "The Arms of the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland," Messrs. J. R. N. Macphail and H. W. Lonsdale being associated with the Marquis of Bute in the authorship. Due acknowledgment was made of the authors' obligations to Mr. Ronald for the use of his valuable and interesting notes. It occurred to Mr. Ronald to go a little farther into the subject, and so he put together a good deal of information bearing on the old seals of the burgh and interesting occasions on which they had been used, and the result formed a paper read to the Society in October, 1895.

In March, 1896, Mr. Ronald contributed a paper on "The Ancient Parish of Stirling," written in a style more controversial than was his wont. The paper was compiled with the object of refuting an opinion expressed by the Rev. David Smith, in a paper read to the Society a year before, that there is

evidence of a time when Stirling was in the Parish of St. Ninians. Mr. Ronald's firm opinion was that the parishes of Stirling and St. Ninians never were other than separate and distinct.

In 1899 the papers which have been mentioned, and which had all been published in the Transactions of the Stirling Natural History and Archæological Society, were reprinted and published by Mr. Eneas Mackay, of Stirling, in a handsome volume entitled, "Landmarks of Old Stirling." Whoever made the suggestion to Mr. Ronald did an excellent thing, as the papers were well worthy of being collected and published in a more convenient form than scattered through the different numbers of a Society's Transactions. The volume is now a standard work on old Stirling, to which the future antiquary must needs refer, and is a model of what such a book should be. Included in the volume is a chapter on the Old Manse of Stirling, which was situated in St. John Street, with a short account of the ministers who lived in it, and also a chapter on the Old

Market Cross of Stirling. When the cross was re-erected in 1891, Mr. Ronald had been consulted as to the form of the restoration, and some difference of opinion had arisen as to whether the surrounding steps should be circular, as appeared should be the case from certain records, or octagonal, as might have been thought likely from the pillar being eight sided. Mr. Ronald took the former view, and the cross now stands in Broad Street with four circular steps for its base.

Mr. Ronald's next work was a paper read to the Society in January, 1902, on "The Crafts of Stirling," in which the story of the Incorporated Trades and their association with Spittal's Hospital was fully discussed. It is understood that Mr. Ronald contemplated a farther paper on this subject, dealing with the history of the different incorporations separately, but this, like various other projected pieces of antiquarian work, it was destined he should not live to accomplish.

"On finding part of an old wall in Murray Place,"

was the cautiously-expressed title of a paper read in April, 1904. Mr. Ronald had been engaged in taking down a tenement of houses in Murray Place for re-erection, when he came upon a mass of building, under the tenement, and extending into the garden. There is little doubt that Mr. Ronald was right in his conjecture that he had thus accidentally hit upon part of the foundation of a wall of the church connected with the old Blackfriars Monastery. This was a most important antiquarian find, and it was a piece of singular good fortune that Mr. Ronald should have been the builder engaged in the work, as otherwise the discovery might never have been made or followed up.

In November, 1904, the Society listened to still another paper, the last to be read in Mr. Ronald's lifetime, entitled, "The Earl of Mar's Ludging." Shortly thereafter it was published by Mr. Mackay, in a separate volume, as an introduction to the Household Book of Lady Marie Stewart, the volume also containing a series of drawings of the building

by Mr. J. W. Small, with explanatory notes. This paper was not so complete as had been expected, but Mr. Ronald had made it only, what it purported to be, an introduction. It by no means exhausted Mr. Ronald's store of information, and it is satisfactory to know that a supplementary paper on this important subject was left completed among his papers at his death, and is to be given to the Archæological Society next session.

The closing months of Mr. Ronald's life were much occupied by a subject to which he had given a good deal of time and thought. In his paper on "Old Landmarks," in 1890, he took up the site of the Ancient Bridge of Stirling, that was destroyed at the Battle of Stirling, in 1297. In spite of the prevalence of the belief that the bridge was situated at Kildean, Mr. Ronald held that it stood at or near the site of the present old bridge. He gave a short, but convincing, statement of the reasons which induced him to form that opinion. Mr. Ronald's view commended itself to many who had previously

given the matter little thought, and, although some have not been convinced, may be said now to hold the field. To the accomplishment of this result there contributed, in no small degree, an exhaustive paper by Mr. W. B. Cook, on the Battle of Stirling Bridge, read to the Society in January, 1905. Mr. Cook's paper had revived interest in the subject, and Mr. Ronald, in the enforced leisure of failing health, again turned his attention to it. Matters were in this position when the exceptional drought of the spring and summer of 1905 came on, and the River Forth sank to a level lower than the oldest inhabitant could remember. What followed I shall give, as far as possible, in Mr. Ronald's own words, in an autobiographical fragment, entitled "A Bit of Private History," sent by him to me a few months before his death. "I was born in Bridge Street, right opposite the Rev. J. Angus' church. My mother died a few weeks after. I was then sent to my grandmother's, at Chartershall, where I lived for

three or four years, after which I was taken back to Bridge Street. At that time our supply of water came from Lessfeerie, and was miserably inadequate. Householders had to be very careful of the water, even for cooking purposes, while for washing-days it had to be carried from the Forth. We youngsters had to do all this, so that it seemed as if the river was more useful then than now. Things went on in this quiet way until I reached my tenth year, when I witnessed the drowning of a man, just opposite to where the piers are, in a deep, dark pool, beneath an overhanging tree, on the Winchelhaugh side of the river. I did not get the cries of that man out of my ears for a twelvemonth ; indeed it had an influence on my whole life, and ever since I have had a horror of water, and have been very seldom on it." In Mr. Ronald's employment was a man named Connelly, who, from having been a pearl fisher, was familiar with the bed of the river. He had mentioned to Mr. Ronald the existence of two projections, apparently of stone work, which rise from the

bottom of the stream from 65 to 75 yards above the present Old Bridge, and were known to pearl fishers and others who had occasion to be on the river. Mr. Ronald conceived the idea that these might be fragments of the piers of the ancient bridge, and he had often turned the matter over in his mind. Now, when the river fell so low that a sandbank, which had accumulated on the southmost of the projections, was exposed above the surface, so that the sea birds gathered on it from day to day, the unusual sight spurred Mr. Ronald to action. He says, "At this time I was forbidden by the doctor to go up streets, and ordered to keep to the level. My walks were thus confined mainly to the riverside. I usually sat on the seat nearest to the bridge, where I saw the cars passing, and heard the rumble of town life. While thus engaged, I observed the low state of the river at ebb tide. This went on day by day, and was a great temptation to me, for though my body was weak, my mind was strong, and my brain ever busy. I said to myself I had often wished to

examine those piers, and here was an opportunity I might never get again. I had the man Connelly, who had known all about them for many years, everything was favourable, some mysterious force was urging me: the temptation became too strong, I forgot my horror of the river, and spoke to Connelly about the matter, and arranged a day for it. The rest you know. All the same it was a most foolish and foolhardy action on my part in my then state of health." The result of Mr. Ronald's investigations was made public in two letters to the "Stirling Sentinel," published on 13th and 20th June, 1905. The position of the piers and their dimensions, though approximate only, were set forth with considerable detail, and also the depth of the water at various points, showing that Mr. Ronald's examination had been conducted with his usual care and thoroughness. The matter has not meantime been any farther cleared up, but it is possible that future investigation may determine definitely the real nature of these structures.

The last work upon which Mr. Ronald was engaged was that which now appears in the present volume, "The Story of the Argyle Lodging," the last fruits of a busy career. During the closing weeks of his life, although his strength was ebbing fast, Mr. Ronald stuck to his voluntary task, and he had the satisfaction of seeing it completed. The final proof sheets had been corrected, he put aside his pen, and then laid himself down to take his eternal rest. Mr. Ronald had planned out two papers for which he had collected a quantity of information, but these were never written. One was the history of the Old Tolbooth, and the other that of Stirling Castle. It was his opinion that the latter would be his most important work, and we can well understand what a valuable historical volume it would have been, had Mr. Ronald been spared to write it. He felt the magnitude of the task, and realized keenly the necessity for its being done thoroughly and well, and had his health allowed, he was prepared to brace himself for a work

which would have been of national importance. But, alas, it has been ruled otherwise, and where is the man to take his place ?

Words of eulogy are not needed to sum up this inadequate account of Mr. Ronald's life. His work and achievements speak for themselves ; his character was what every one knew it, honourable, unassuming, sternly upright and quietly kind,—more, it was, what his more intimate friends knew well, founded on a deep sense of religious feeling, and in spite of an apparently unpoetic exterior, full of intense sentiment. He had the practical man's love of exactness and plain statement of fact, qualities essential to the antiquary, but he had also in his being a spring of imagination, which, in spite of repression, burst out from time to time, a quality not less necessary to the successful worker in any field of research. We wonder how one, whose hands were so full of business, could have found time to overtake so much careful investigation of records, and to accomplish so much literary work, but we have only to recall what

was Mr. Ronald's outstanding characteristic, to find the explanation in his tremendous tenacity of purpose. There are few of Stirling's sons whose remains have been followed to our beautiful cemetery on the hill who could be less spared than our old familiar friend, Bailie Ronald.

DAVID B. MORRIS.

15th June, 1906.

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